



Cabinet Office

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The Rt. Hon Edward Miliband MP
House of Commons
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23 July 2013

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your letter about Mr Lynton Crosby. Jon Trickett also wrote to me on 15 July. Please accept this as a response to both letters.

As you note, Mr Crosby is not employed by the Government. He is contracted by the Conservative Party. He has not been granted permission to have access to Government papers or attend government meetings. Nor does he advise or lobby on government business, whether the legislative programme, or individual policy issues such as the regulation of cigarette packaging or fracking.

Since Mr Crosby is not employed by the Government he does not have meetings with civil servants or have access to their advice and does not have a No 10 security pass. His role, as I understand it, is to advise the Conservative Party and any meetings he may have had with the Prime Minister are on this basis which is not in itself a conflict with the Ministerial Code. You will recall that the Prime Minister announced in October 2011 that where Ministers have discussions with external organisations or individuals, and no civil servants are present, if any substantive issues are raised relating to government policies or contracts then Ministers should inform their department to ensure that there is no perception of impropriety. This requirement applies to all Ministers, including the Prime Minister. I can confirm that no such issues have been raised.

In addition, to provide further reassurance in this particular case that both the letter and the spirit of the Ministerial Code are being adhered to, I attach the principles of engagement between Lynton Crosby and the Conservative Party that have been the practice since Lynton Crosby was contracted by them.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I hope this will reassure you about the processes we have - going beyond those in place pre October 2011 as set out above- to protect both the actual and perceived integrity of government decision-taking. Against this background I do not see what purpose would be served by the inquiry that you propose.

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature of Jeremy Heywood.

Jeremy Heywood

